

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-35 (canceled).

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method of screening for a compound that inhibits virus binding and entry to target cell mediated by a wild type viral envelope protein, said method comprises the steps of:

attaching an enzyme to the C-terminal end of a viral envelope protein, thereby creating an envelope-enzyme fusion protein;

generating virus particles comprising said fusion protein and the wild type viral envelope protein, wherein the enzyme of the envelope-enzyme fusion protein is encapsulated into the virus particles;

infecting target cells with said virus particles in the presence or absence of said compound; and

measuring activities of said enzyme in said infected cells, wherein decreased enzyme activities in the presence of said compound indicates that said compound inhibits virus binding and entry to said target cells mediated by said wild type viral envelope protein.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein said enzyme is luciferase.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein said envelope-enzyme fusion protein comprises envelope protein of murine leukemia virus.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein said wild type viral envelope protein is from a virus selected from the group consisting of murine leukemia virus, human immunodeficiency virus, retrovirus, Vesicular Stomatitis virus, Arenaviruses, Hanta virus, Ebola virus and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis virus.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The method of claim 36, wherein said measurement of enzyme activities is carried out in a 96 well-plate.